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BIOWARE

THE SILENT GROVE

DAVID GAIDER | ALEXANDER FREED | CHAD HARDIN

DRAGON AGE™

THE SILENT GROVE

Part 6 of 6

For nearly a decade, King Alistair of Ferelden has ruled with a steady hand, seeing to his homeland's reconstruction after the darkspawn blight. Now—accompanied by the notorious pirate Isabela and the dwarven merchant Varric Tethras—he has journeyed north in search of his long-lost father, King Maric.

Confronting the witch Yavana about her involvement in Maric's fate, Alistair learned that Maric and Yavana had worked together to preserve the world's dying dragons. But Maric is now gone, and Prince Claudio Valisti's attempt to strike at Yavana through Alistair rendered matters more complicated. Now Claudio is dead, and Yavana has returned with a promise to reveal what the assassin prince was hiding . . .

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UGH.

FROM NOW ON, NO MORE GAMES OF CHASE THE DWARF.

YOU'RE NOT JUST A *DISTRACTION,* VARRIC.

YOU'RE USEFUL FOR *MORE* THAN LURING AWAY GUARDS --

CHAPTER 6

-- WHILE EVERYTHING *MEMORABLE* HAPPENS SOMEPLACE ELSE?

GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

YOU ALMOST MISSED THE FUN.

EVIDENTLY, WE'RE GOING TO ASK CLAUDIO HOW IT FEELS TO BE STABBED IN THE CHEST.

IT'S ALMOST DAWN WHEN WE RETURN TO THE GROVE.

YOUR FUTURE LIES BELOW.

YOUR FRIENDS CANNOT FOLLOW.

ANY IDEA WHAT'S DOWN THERE?

BESIDES "YOUR FUTURE"?

NO.

YOU'VE COME THIS FAR FOR ANSWERS, O KING.

PLANNING TO STOP NOW?

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE WHAT I FIND?

HRRRRRRRR

IT IS PERMITTED.

TONIGHT, AND ONLY TONIGHT.

WHERE ARE WE?

THE HALL OF SLEEPERS.

WHEN DRAGONS WERE NEARLY EXTINGUISHED FROM THIS WORLD, THE BUILDERS OF THE TEMPLE CALLED TO THE FEW THAT REMAINED.

THE DRAGONS THAT CAME WOULD REST HERE FOR GENERATIONS--

--UNTIL AWAKENED BY POWER.

I REVIVED A FEW -- VERY FEW -- THAT HAD NOT *DIED* IN THEIR SLEEP.

THEY WERE THE FIRST DRAGONS TO ROAM OUR LAND IN MANY AGES.

BUT THE GREAT ONES WERE *ALWAYS* BEYOND MY REACH.

MARIC CHANGED THAT.

THE BLOOD OF *CALENHAD THE GREAT*, FIRST KING OF FERELDEN, FLOWED IN HIS VEINS.

IT CALLED TO MY QUEEN OF DRAGONS AND WOKE HER.

HOW?

BLOOD IS POWER -- IT *CONNECTS* US.

THAT IS WHY AURELIAN TITUS TOOK YOUR FATHER FROM ME.

A FOOL WITH POWER DESIRES ONLY *MORE* POWER.

YOUR HEART BEATS WITH THE OLD BLOOD, AS WELL.

WHERE DO YOU THINK IT COMES FROM?

IT SINGS OF A TIME WHEN DRAGONS RULED THE SKIES.

A TIME BEFORE THE VEIL, BEFORE THE MYSTERIES WERE FORGOTTEN.

CAN YOU HEAR IT?

YOU SEE YOUR BLOOD AS A CURSE, YOUR CROWN AS A BURDEN.

USE THEM NOW TO CLAIM YOUR FREEDOM.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

AWAKEN THE LAST OF THE GREAT ONES, AS YOUR FATHER WAS MEANT TO.

ABSOLVE HIM OF HIS OATH, AND WE WILL SEARCH FOR AURELIAN TITUS TOGETHER.

WE WILL FIND YOUR FATHER, AND HE CAN RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR CROWN.

YOUR LIFE WILL BE YOURS AGAIN.

WHY IS IT ALWAYS A RITUAL?

YOU AND MORRIGAN AND FLEMETH...ALL YOU DO IS MANIPULATE AND LIE.

THAT IS OUR CRAFT, BUT NOT OUR PURPOSE.

MANKIND DESTROYS WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING, YET I *PRESERVE*.

WHAT IS *YOUR* PURPOSE?

JUSTICE.

YOU TOOK MARIC FROM ME.

FROM MY BROTHER.

YOU TOOK HIM FROM FERELDEN.

EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO MY COUNTRY IS BECAUSE OF YOU.

HHRRRRRRRRRRR

GOING TO EAT ME?

I DIDN'T THINK SO.

I TAKE IT THINGS WENT WELL?

ARE YOU OKAY?

NO. I KILLED HER.

THAT'S IT, THEN?

IT'S NOT.

I'M TIRED OF BEING A PAWN, VARRIC.

I'M GOING TO FIND AURELIAN TITUS AND I'M GOING TO KILL HIM, TOO.

HE'S EARNED THAT MUCH.

WHEN *THAT'S* DONE, I'M GOING TO FIND MARIC.

AND THEN I'M GOING HOME...TO BE KING.

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SAID THAT.

I SHOULD ASK FOR A SECOND SHIP.

OR A TITLE.

YOU *DO* INTEND TO PAY US TO STICK AROUND...?

LET ME SEE WHAT'S LEFT IN THE TREASURY.

MY NAME IS ALISTAIR THEIRIN, AND I'M KING OF FERELDEN.

LONG LIVE THE KING, LONG MAY HE REIGN! AND SO FORTH.

PRAY TO THE MAKER HE DOESN'T DO SOMETHING STUPID...

THE END

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